

ABSTRACT

Title: Creating a Graduate Student Association at a College or University

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The purpose of this creative project was to develop a manual that equipped colleges and universities with the tools to guide their efforts in creating a graduate student association – a voice for graduate students. “The transition to graduate or professional student can bring about new self doubt and self-awareness and can change relationships with family and friends” (Gasemer-Topf, Johnson, & Ross, 2006).

Graduate and professional student’s acclamation to graduate study and involvement with the university can lead to higher success in the classroom and co-curricular experiences. This creative project, “Creating a Graduate Student Association at a College or University,” overviewed the important social networking and professional development opportunities for graduate and professional students.

Colleges or universities without a student association to speak on behalf of its graduate and professional students may unintentionally disregard the important development of graduate and professional students. The value of creating a graduate student association lies in the opportunities it can bring to students, such as a unified voice on behalf of graduate students on a college or university campus. The association should be recognized as a legitimate source for graduate and professional student, which could enhance the graduate student experience.

This project extensively reviewed relevant literature and examined graduate student associations at other institutions. The manual included organizing a graduate student association, developing marketing and public relations plan, developing social and professional events and programs, outlining of funding and fundraising ideas, and other considerations crucial to creating a successful association.